

Mary Lou Terrien

From: Erika Brown Binion <ebrown@rdclansing.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 5:30 AM
To: Mary Lou Terrien
Cc: Rep. Lee Chatfield (District 107); Rep. Amanda Price; Rep. David Maturen (District 63); Rep. Jim Runestad (District 44); Rep. Jason Sheppard (District 56); Rep. Lana Theis (District 42); Rep. Hank Vaupel (District 47); Rep. Sheldon Neeley (District 34); Rep. David Rutledge; Rep. Charles Brunner
Subject: RE: HCR 28
Attachments: HCR 28 - Letter .docx

December 1, 2016

Dear Senators and Representatives,

My name is Erika Brown-Binion, executive director of the Refugee Development Center in Lansing. As a community organization working tirelessly to improve academic and social systems in mid-Michigan, we share your desire to maintain the strength and safety of our fellow citizens, friends, and neighbors. Because of this, we stand against HCR 28 because it overlooks the fundamental truths that make our community vibrant and strong.

Refugee resettlement in Lansing has positively impacted the vibrancy of our state. Newcomers in Michigan are tax-payers, home owners, business owners, students, mothers and fathers. They have added to the rich fabric of our community and have become active citizens wanting to make a contribution. We benefit from the vast diversity in our midst; we learn different languages, different cultures, and different perspectives. This understanding and acknowledgement of difference makes our foundation stronger, not weaker. We urge you to support refugee resettlement and protect vulnerable people deserving a chance at peace.

Refugees go through a comprehensive vetting process—they are the most vetted travelers to the United States. The definition provided in the HCR 28 resolution fails to define or even outline the desired "screening process" to be implemented nor does it indicate a timeline of proposed action. With a robust process in place and functioning through the various international and federal agencies including UNHCR, DHS, and the FBI, HCR 28 is unnecessary and harmful to our community.

Should you have questions please do not hesitate to contact me by email (below) or by phone at (517) 999 - 5090.

Sincerely,

Erika Brown-Binion
Refugee Development Center
Executive Director
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